

Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

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Date: Fri, 11 Feb 2022 15:03:23 +0000

Meeting change. Please use their dial in instead.

Dial in: 202-593-3000

Pin: 250237

Lines from DC as of last night. Lawrence's press release further below.

Introductory

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- Appreciate the opportunity to connect. Understand the direct impact the blockades have on your district. It is imperative that we work in lockstep to mitigate further impacts.
- As you know, the Ambassador bridge is a critical link in our supply chain and our government is fully engaged on finding a solution as quickly as possible.
- We are coordinating closely with the Administration, CBP and other agencies to share intelligence and prevent similar events from replicating on the U.S. side.

Ambassador Bridge

- While the GoC has made it clear that we support freedom of expression and assembly, we are deeply concerned by the closure of the Ambassador Bridge, and the impact that is having on industry and travellers.
- Ensuring that essential consumer goods reach Canadian households as efficiently as possible, and that food, medicine and other critical supplies are accessible to all who need them, is of the utmost priority for the Government of Canada.
- Canada is in regular contact with U.S. agencies like CBP to share any intelligence that would be helpful in preventing similar situations from occurring in the U.S.
- We are also working side-by-side with the U.S. Administration.
 - Our Minister of Transport spoke with Secretary Buttigieg this afternoon.
 - Our Public Safety Minister will be speaking with Secretary Mayorkas as well.
- CBSA is working collaboratively with law enforcement partners to restore normal border operations at affected ports of entry as quickly as possible.
- Until further notice, we are encouraging travellers to consider alternate ports of entry to cross the border, such as the [Windsor-Detroit Tunnel](#) for regular travellers and the [Sarnia/Port Huron \(Blue Water Bridge\)](#) for commercial traffic.
- CBSA is prepared to allocate resources and adjust staffing levels at alternate ports of entry to minimize processing times and potential delays.

- IF NEEDED: I understand Windsor's Mayor, Drew Dilkens, was seeking approval from the courts this afternoon for an injunction against the protesters, which would enable law enforcement to remove them if they refuse to leave on their own.

RESPONSIVE – Vaccine Mandates

- Canada and the U.S. are working closely together to protect our citizens and are aligned in our vaccine mandates at the Canada-U.S. border.
 - The vaccine mandate for truckers that came into effect in October has helped protect transportation workers from the impacts of Omicron. This has helped protect supply chains from being disrupted by ensuring safer workplaces and a more resilient workforce.
 - The majority of truckers have made the right choice and are vaccinated. They are essential to keeping our supply chains moving – and they are doing so each and every day. [Ministers have used the 90% vaccination rate stat.]
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, February 10, 2021

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U.S. Rep. Lawrence Statement on Ambassador Bridge Blockade

Detroit, MI - Today, U.S. Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (MI-14) issued the following statement regarding the blockade on Ambassador Bridge.

“As the representative of the district that includes the Detroit side of the Ambassador Bridge, I stand firmly in saying full, regular travel needs to resume on the bridge. Michiganders, especially Detroiters, are uniquely aware that the Ambassador Bridge is the largest access point of international trade and commerce in North America, accounting for a quarter of all trade between the U.S. and Canada. The blockade is harming Michigan families, workers, small businesses, and manufacturers, especially at a time when our supply chain is so fragile. We’re seeing the ripple effects right now in our communities with shifts being cut short and further hardships being put on hard-working families.

“I support peaceful protests and demonstrations. However, I’m concerned about the essential workforce that travels between the U.S. and Canada; emergency access for truck drivers and

emergency personnel; and the delay of life-saving pharmaceutical drugs and other critical goods and services. I strongly urge our national and provincial Canadian leaders to reach a safe and quick resolution that allows for seamless commerce to continue on the Ambassador Bridge.”

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